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The general results of the paper, however, are probably not seriously vitiated by this inaccuracy, and may be summarized thus: The accuracy of the memory for tone sensations is very great; it is much more difficult to recognize the direction in which a tone has been altered than to detect the alteration itself. This seems to be a peculiarity of tone sensations, as it does not hold for sight or touch. The longer the interval between the sounding of the two tones, (variable from 1-30, 60, or 120 seconds), the smaller the chances of recognizing the tone; and this process of forgetting takes place at first very rapidly and then very slowly. It is made probable that the interval must increase in a geometrical ratio to produce an arithmetical series of (approximately) equal degrees of forgetting. A constant and peculiar deviation from this law occurs after an interval of 20-30 seconds; then there is a rhythm in the memory itself, and the curve of forgetfulness rises slightly. It was also noted that a low tone is not as easily recognized as a high one; that unmusical ears tend to judge low notes too low and high ones too high; that the effect of practice is at first marked, but soon diminishes, as is its general law; and, that the recovering power of the ear is so great that fatigue has little effect.

J. JASTROW.

The Conception of Love in some American Languages. By D. E. BRINTON. Proc. Am. Philos. Soc. December, 1885. pp. 536-62.

Dr. Brinton has studied the history and derivation of terms of affection as furnishing illustrations of the origin and growth of the sentiments of love and friendship; and has sought to show the parallelism that everywhere appears in the workings of the human mind. The principal words expressing love in the Aryan languages can be traced back to two main ideas, one denoting similarity between the persons loving, the other denoting a wish or desire. The same notions underlie the majority of words expressing love in the American languages studied.

The following classification of the original modes of expression for conceptions of love is given, the names of the languages being given in parenthesis:

- 1.—Inarticulate cries of emotion, (Cree, Maya, Qquichua).
- 2.—Assertions of sameness or similarity, (Cree, Nahuatl, Tupi, Arawack).
- 3.—Assertions of conjunction or union, (Cree, Nahuatl, Maya).
- 4.—Assertions of a wish, desire or longing, (Cree, Cakchiquel, Qqueichua, Tupi).

W. H. BURNHAM.

Coma. By CHARLES MERCIER, M. D. Brain, Jan., 1887.

The writer, who avows himself a follower of Dr. Hughlings-Jackson, seeks to enforce Mr. Savory's proposition to restrict the present very vague meaning of coma to "cases where there is a state of insensibility from which the patient cannot be completely aroused, together with a tendency to death by asphyxia," except that for "insensibility" our author would substitute "evidence of defect of consciousness." This includes cases of partial consciousness and cases where consciousness may exist, but is not made evident by common tests. Four stages are distinguished. "The finest, most delicate and most elaborate movements and those associated with

the will are the first to go, while the simplest, broadest and most general movements, and those least associated with will are the last to be retained." Thus the drunkard loses the power to write first, then to talk clearly, then to hold his glass steady, then to walk, then to sit, and by the same law his breathing begins to fail, while his heart is unaffected, and the accessory parts of the breathing apparatus fail before the fundamental parts. Hence the tendency is to death by asphyxia.¹ Independent movement of the eyes, and especially divergence, is said to *always* occur in coma, and negative the possibility of hysteria. The ordinary fatigues of the day and a hearty meal check the most complex, delicate and precise movements of the mind. The same pathological event that enfeebles activity enfeebles mentation, and indeed every part of the organism. It is concluded that the highest centres represent in more or less degree every part of the organism. The functions of the brain are not "segregated in separated encapsulated portions of grey matter," and the doctrine of nerve centres "is rapidly becoming like so many doctrines before it, a fetishism." Obscure symptoms used to be called "reflex;" later they were due to "incoördination," a still more vague and sonorous expression of unusual cause, and now there are not only psychic, but trophic, and even glycogenic centres. To invent new centres *ad libitum* that may be both destroyed to account for defect and discharged to account for excessive action, shows how far localization has run mad. It belongs to lower and not to higher centres. The author's plea is for "universal representation of the highest nervous centres." This view assimilates coma to insanity as a "fulminating" form of it, and though the stages of insanity may be so prolonged that the relation of stages may be lost, both illustrate the one fundamental law of dissolution, and there is no form whatever of either that may not have its counterpart in a case of drunkenness.

Beiträge zur Kentniss der Militärpsychosen. W. SOMER. Allg. Zeitsch. f. Psychiatrie. 1886.

The peculiar psychoses resulting from the excitement and fatigue of military life and war have never been adequately studied. During active campaigning the medical staff of the army is otherwise employed, and save a few treatises on the simulation of diseases by soldiers and recruits, the literature on the subject is very meager. The basis of this article is mainly the clinical records of the lunatic asylum for soldiers in Allenberg, East Prussia, yet here diseases which developed after discharge from the army are ignored. The consequences of insanity in the service are very grave, and it is much more frequent than in civil life. Most soldiers are able-

¹See the conclusions of S. Weir Mitchell and E. T. Reichert in their very valuable "Researches upon the Venom of Poisonous Serpents," Smithsonian contribution, No. 647, 1886, p. 50. "These results all go to establish the conclusion that the respiratory centre is the most vulnerable part of the nervous system, that the coördinating and volitional centres are then prominently affected, that the sensory part of the spinal cord and sensory nerves are next attacked, and that the motor parts of the cord and the motor nerves are the last to succumb."